

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A device for collecting and storing a biological sample for subsequent analysis, comprising tamper-evident storage means for storing said sample, said storage means being suitable for digestion together with said biological sample.

Claim 2 (original): A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said storage means comprises sheets of material suitable for digestion together with said biological sample, between which said biological sample is stored.

Claim 3 (original): A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said sheets are adapted to be substantially irreversibly adhered together.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein print is on the reverse of said base sheet.

Claim 5 (original): A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the cover sheet is hingedly secured to said base sheet.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the base sheet is paper.

Claim 7 (original): A device as claimed in claim 6 wherein the cover sheet is coated with a permanent adhesive across its entire surface, and the portion of the cover sheet to which the backing sheet is not secured constitutes the hinged connection between the cover sheet and the base sheet.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cover sheet is a clear polypropylene film.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the backing sheet is a release paper.

Claim 10 (original): A device as claimed in claim 9 wherein a bar code is printed on the reverse of said base sheet.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein the device is a sample collecting device for collecting and storing a biological sample for subsequent analysis, comprising tamper-evident storage means for storing said sample, said storage means comprising:

- a base sheet arranged so that the biological sample may be positioned thereon;

- a cover sheet hingedly secured to said base sheet, said cover sheet being adapted for substantially irreversible adhesive securement to said base sheet over at least a substantial portion of their facing surfaces; and

- a backing sheet releasably secured to the surface of said cover sheet facing said base sheet

wherein said storage means is suitable for digestion together with said biological sample.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein a hole punch takes a portion of said sample for analysis together with that part of the storage means in which it is encased.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said sample is digested in an alkali extraction.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said sample is subjected to amplification by PCR and then DNA sequencing.

Claims 15-22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (original) A method of analysing a biological sample, comprising the steps of:
providing a device for storing a biological sample comprising a tamper-evident storage means for storing said sample, said storage means being suitable for digestion together with said biological sample;
taking at least a portion of said sample together with at least the part of said storage means in which it is encased;
digesting said sample, or portion thereof, together with at least said part of said storage means; and
analysing said sample.

Claim 24 (original): A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein the device is a device as defined in any one of claims 1 to 14.

Claim 25 (original): A method as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24 wherein a portion of said sample is punched out of the device with a hole punch.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A sample collection device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the base sheet is paper.

Claim 27 (original): A method according to any one of claims 23 to 26 wherein said sample is subjected to amplification by PCR and then DNA sequencing.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A sample collection device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the cover sheet is coated with a permanent adhesive across its entire surface, and the portion of the cover sheet to which the backing sheet is not secured constitutes the hinged connection between the cover sheet and the base sheet.

Claim 29 (original): A device as claimed in claim 28 wherein said base sheet is printed on its reverse.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A sample collection device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the cover sheet is a clear polypropylene film.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A sample collection device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the backing sheet is a release paper.

Claim 32 (cancelled).